

forwarding call charge information from a public telephony network so that the user is billed for the call.

2. The method recited in claim 1, wherein the correlating step comprises the step of searching a database comprising records of user identifying data for all valid users of the network.

3. The method recited in claim 2, wherein the searching step comprises the step of comparing the user identifying information received to the billing information associated with the user, and authenticating the user when the user's user identifying data matches the billing information.

4. The method recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of passing the telephone call through the network if the user identifying information received is authenticated.

5. The method recited in claim 4 wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

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A1

6. (Amended) A method of processing a request to place a telephone call through a network, comprising the steps of:  
receiving user identifying information associated with a user that has placed a telephone call via a modem pool, the telephone call placed through the network;  
searching a database containing information related to users of the network to correlate the user identifying information with the user and authenticate the user as a valid user of the network;  
forwarding call charge information from a public telephony network so that the user is billed for the call; and  
passing the telephone call through the network if the user identifying information has been correlated to the user and the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

7. The method recited in claim 6, wherein the searching step further comprises the step of comparing the user identifying information with records of billing information stored in the database.

8. The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of billing the user for the telephone call when the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

9. The method recited in claim 8, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

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10. (Amended) A network that utilizes a modem for processing calls made through the network, comprising:  
a server for receiving user identifying information associated with a user of the network that has placed a telephone call via a shared modem pool;  
a search module for searching a database containing information related to users of the network and for correlating the user identifying information with the user to authenticate the user as a valid user of the network such that when the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network, the telephone call is passed through the network; and  
a billing aggregator module, which aggregates charge call information received from a public telephony network and the user identifying information so that the user is billed for the call.

11. The network recited in claim 10, further comprising a correlating module for comparing the user identifying information with records of user billing information stored in the database.

12. The network recited in claim 11, further comprising a billing module in communication with the correlating module for billing the user for the telephone call when the user has been authenticated as a valid user of the network.

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13. (Amended) The network recited in claim 12, wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

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14. (New) The network recited in claim 10, further comprising a shared modem pool with multiple modems that is accessible over the network to each of multiple users of the network.

15. (New) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computing device to handle a telephone call made via a modem through a network, by performing a method comprising:

receiving a request from a user of the network to place a telephone call via a shared modem pool having multiple modems;

receiving user identifying information to authenticate the request as coming from a valid user of the network;

if the user identifying information received is authenticated,

correlating the user identifying information with billing information associated with the user;

placing the telephone call via one of the modems of the shared modem pool; and

billing the user for the call based at least in part on the billing information associated with the user and on call charge information for the placed telephone call that is received from a public telephony network.

16. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the modems of the shared modem pool are connected to the public telephony network, and wherein the placing of the telephone call via the modem includes supplying the billing information associated with the user to the public telephony network.

17. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the network comprises a wireless network.

18. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the  
A3 method is performed for each of multiple users of the network.

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